

To the FCC commissioners,

From my understanding of the upcoming proposed changes to FCC regulations, I believe that the commission may vote to drastically increase the de-regulation of the media begun in 1996. This is the wrong action for the FCC to take at this time. If anything, the FCC should reduce the number of broadcast stations one company can own in a given market.

The American media has already stagnated due to the concentration of media outlets in a handful of national corporations. Local markets suffer under this concentration (losing local coverage and character as programming becomes increasingly centralized nationally), and every consumer of the media suffers, as fewer views and opinions on the news are available. While media consumption habits have changed, particularly through the internet, most Americans still get their primary news information from television and newspapers. These media have become too concentrated for adequate market pressure and for a healthy spectrum of views. America needs an independent media, not one which panders to a given ideology, knowing that by doing so they may receive government favors.

The FCC was created to serve the public interest with respect to the media. De-regulation of the media by loosening ownership rules does not serve that interest. The commission should not further deregulate the media, but instead should examine ways that an increasing diversity of viewpoints can be fostered.